

New Hampshire, Daniel Webster said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." In this spirit, a week after graduating from Central, Ryan left for Marine Corps Recruit Training at Parris Island, SC. After completing his initial training, Ryan went to the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he graduated as mortarman. In February 2006, then Private First Class McCaughn joined 1st Battalion, 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune.

In March 2006, Ryan was promoted to Lance Corporal; 6 months later he arrived in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tragically, on November 7, 2006, this brave marine was killed during combat operations in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting combat operations against enemy forces. Throughout his short career, Ryan earned accolades which testify to the dedication and devotion he held for the Marine Corps, his fellow marines, and his country. Lance Corporal McCaughn's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Baghdad—and U.S. Marine Corps LCpl Ryan McCaughn served in that fine tradition. As he told his mother, he knowingly put himself in harm's way so that others did not have to, and for this, we are eternally grateful. To his last day, Lance Corporal McCaughn exemplified the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps, "Semper Fidelis—Always Loyal."

My heartfelt sympathy, condolences and prayers go out to Ryan's parents, his brothers, and his family and friends who have suffered this grievous hurt. The death of Ryan, only 19 years old, on a battlefield far from New Hampshire is a true loss for our State, our Nation and the world. Although he will be sorely missed by all, his family and friends may sense some comfort in knowing that because of his devotion, sense of duty, and selfless dedication, the safety and liberty of each and every American is more secure. May God bless LCpl Ryan Thomas McCaughn.

SERGEANT JEREMY MULHAIR

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army SSG Jeremy Mulhair of Nebraska. Sergeant Mulhair died when an explosion hit his vehicle near Taji, Iraq.

Sergeant Mulhair grew up in the rural areas northwest of Omaha. He attended Omaha Central High School. Sergeant Mulhair enlisted with the Army National Guard in 1995. He joined the Guard for both his deep sense of patriotism and a strong respect for his father Jerry, who served in Vietnam.

Sergeant Mulhair turned his National Guard duty into a job in the reg-

ular Army. He had been in Iraq since October, serving with the Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment. This was his second tour of duty in Iraq. Sergeant Mulhair had served in South Korea as well.

Sergeant Mulhair was a devoted family man. He and his wife Suzie had three children: 9-year-old Celina, 8-year-old Jeremy, Jr., and 9-month-old Maybel. The family hoped to have another child when he returned from Iraq. Thousands of brave Americans like Sergeant Mulhair are currently serving in Iraq.

In addition to his wife and children, Sergeant Mulhair is survived by his parents Jerry and Mildred of Kimballton, IA, brother Robert Mulhair of Mead, NE, and sisters Dixie Heisner and Tammy Lines of Omaha.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SSG Robert Mulhair.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN BARRY BLACK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as I depart this body, I would like to extend a heartfelt personal thank you to Chaplain Barry Black. From comforting staff and Members in the wake of tragic deaths to leading erudite Bible study groups, to opening the Senate each morning with prayer, Chaplain Barry Black has shown himself the epitome of a great minister. He is a man of keen intellect, enormous oratorical skill, and great faith.

Personally, I have always been taken by his voice as he offers our opening prayers each morning we are in session. He has a voice that makes everyone perk up, listen, and remain attentive.

I have seen Chaplain Black become a friend, an ally, and a helper to staff and Members from all points on the political spectrum. He has kept his door open to people of all faiths and, as a Seventh Day Adventist minister himself, has helped many Christian Senators and staff—including me—enter into a closer and more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ.

I am delighted that he will be continuing his service and I am pleased that I could have the honor of appointing him. Barry Black, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO BILL PICKLE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, Since 2003, Bill Pickle has served this body with enormous distinction. As the Senate's Sergeant at Arms, he has helped us and he has protected us. Now, as he de-

parts, I wish to thank him, recognize him, and honor him.

For over 3 years, he has excelled in one of the hardest jobs I know of, not just in the Senate, not just in our legislative branch, not just in our Federal Government but I honestly believe, in the entire Nation.

When I came to the job as majority leader, I wanted to find the best professional possible in law enforcement, information technology, security, and continuity planning to lead the Sergeant at Arms operation. I found him in Bill Pickle, and it was one of the smartest decisions I made during my tenure as leader. Bill is the consummate professional. He is smart, with good instincts, and like my colleagues, I value his counsel and insight.

Originally, his office existed to keep order in the Senate Chamber and compel the attendance of Members for votes. In this body's early days, the Sergeant at Arms would circulate through the drinking houses of what was then known as Washington City, rounding up recalcitrant Members and dragging them—sometimes by the coat tails—back to the Senate Chamber.

Perhaps today's members do a slightly better job showing up for votes. To my knowledge, Bill Pickle has never had to bodily drag any of my colleagues in for a vote, but that has not made his job easier.

Today's Sergeant at Arms is part security specialist, part corporate executive, and part management information systems administrator, and that is just part of it. Every day, the Sergeant at Arms' office must deal with the demands of 100 opinionated, demanding men and women, thousands of American citizens, officials from every part of our own Government, and people from around the world.

The duties that fall under his office range from running our recording studio to serving on the board that oversees the U.S. Capitol Police, but one thing unites them all their ability to connect this body to the people of this Nation.

Through his leadership, his courage, and his vision, against immense challenges, Bill Pickle has kept this building and this body open and accessible to the people we serve.

During the whole of Bill Pickle's time in office, our Nation has been at war against Islamic fascists, enemies who wish to strike at the principles of openness and democratic governance that this body represents. And he has kept us safe. Not a single serious assault has occurred on this body during his time in office. The Capitol is safer than it has ever been. For that alone, we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Every time his office has faced a challenge, Bill Pickle has risen to the occasion. Time after time, he has tackled difficult tasks with aplomb. He preside over a necessary expansion of the Capitol Police, appointed the Senate's first chief information officer, helped